

# LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

## Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **March 11, 2003**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 17

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: **Request for Waiver of Sewer Availability and Connection Fees; Historic Sandusky Foundation**

RECOMMENDATION: Appropriate \$2400 from the General Fund Reserve for Contingencies to the Sewer Fund to pay for sewer availability and connection fees at Sandusky.

SUMMARY: As part of the process of opening Sandusky to the public, the Historic Sandusky Foundation plans to connect the house to public sewer. The foundation has asked that the sewer availability and connection fees, totaling \$2400, be waived. Attached is a letter from the foundation making the request with associated documentation on the value of the property to Civil War tourism in the City. The foundation has suggested that the cost of the connection will be more than covered by sales, meals, and lodging tax revenues generated by visitors to the property.

The Physical Development Committee considered this request at its meeting of March 3. While unwilling to waive the fees outright, and therefore deny the Sewer Fund revenue from the connection, the committee decided that the full Council should consider the suggestion that the fees be paid for by the General Fund (where the tax revenues will accrue) utilizing the Reserve for Contingencies.

PRIOR ACTION(S): Physical Development Committee, March 3, 2003

FISCAL IMPACT: \$2400 from the General Fund Reserve for Contingencies to the Sewer Fund. The extension of public sewer to the property will cost \$18,000, with the potential for two additional connections. Under the terms of the sewer extension policy, the Sewer fund will pay this cost.

CONTACT(S): Bruce McNabb

ATTACHMENT(S): Letter and associated documentation from the Historic Sandusky Foundation; Resolution.

REVIEWED BY: lkp

## RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED That \$2,400 is appropriated from the General Fund Reserve for Contingencies to the Sewer Fund for sewer availability and connection fees to allow the connection of Sandusky to public sewer.

Introduced:

Adopted:

Certified:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

062L

# Sandusky

March 5, 2003

Mr. Kimball Payne  
City Manager  
900 Church Street  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24504

Dear Mr. Payne,

Thank you on behalf of the Historic Sandusky Foundation for listening to our appeal regarding the City of Lynchburg sewer availability and connection fees. Please accept my apologies for being unable to attend the meeting personally.

This letter is to formally request that the City of Lynchburg forgo these sewer fees in the amount of \$2,400.00 as a gift in-kind to the foundation. This gift could then be used for our Easley Foundation matching grant. This sewer connection is necessary to allow Sandusky to open to the public.

In the two years since we've been in operation we have accomplished many things. The major one being the Battle of Lynchburg driving tour- a \$35,000 multi-faceted tourism initiative which includes eight new **Civil War Trails** markers, a Lynchburg map, and a narrated tour recording.

Additionally we have attracted national attention with the addition of historians James I. Robertson, Jr. and Ed Bearss to our Advisory Board, and we are partnering with the Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce to produce a Lynchburg travel/history video. On February 12<sup>th</sup> we signed a Partnership-in-Education agreement with the Lynchburg City Schools.

The development of Sandusky as a Civil War and Lynchburg history center is a vital part of Lynchburg's economic development. Virginia tourism is a multi-billion dollar business and ranks as the state's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest industry.

Our location between the D-Day Memorial and Appomattox Historical Park (which already attract hundreds of thousands of visitors) provides the opportunity to have these visitors stay in our hotels, eat at our restaurants, and increase our tax revenues while visiting Lynchburg.

Should you have any further questions, please contact me. Thank you for consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Greg Starbuck  
Executive Director

Attachments



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Historic  
*Sandusky*  
Foundation, Inc.

757 Sandusky Drive • Lynchburg, Virginia 24502 • Phone 434.832.0162 • Fax 434.832.0182 • [www.historicsandusky.org](http://www.historicsandusky.org)

RECEIVED

MAR 05 2003

COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICES



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

July 9, 2002

To Whom it May Concern,

As Former Chief Historian of the National Park Service and member of the congressionally authorized Civil War sites study commission, I wish to strongly endorse the preservation and interpretation of Sandusky, the Civil War home of Major George C. Hutter.

In our study of Civil War sites of National, State, and local significance as requested by Congress we evaluated more than 10,000 sites associated with Civil War battles, engagements, and skirmishes as identified in Dyer's Compendium of the Civil War. The commission identified more than 380 of these diverse sites that were deemed of National or State significance. The Battle of Lynchburg was included as a site of National significance to the interpretation of the military history of the Civil War.


I have long been familiar with the Battle of Lynchburg and sites associated with the battle having led museum tours for the Smithsonian Institute for the last 20 odd years. As Lynchburg is an urban area relatively few sites associated with the battle are extant. Fortunately however three sites and structures which played a significant role in this battle are extant. Heretofore two of them have been opened to the public, the Quaker Meeting House and Fort Early. Sandusky has not yet opened to the public.

As a Civil War historian who has been interested in the war for over 50 years, and having visited more Civil War sites than probably any individual, I urge serious consideration be given to the preservation and interpretation of Sandusky. As General David Hunter's headquarters it was intimately associated with the battle and the site of where command decisions were made that resulted in the Federal withdrawal from Lynchburg and enabled General Jubal Early with his Valley Army to carry the war across the Potomac River into the District of Columbia.

General Hunter himself was an important personage associated with the Civil War both because of his advanced views of the use of African-American soldiers during the war and his role in President Lincoln's waging of economic warfare that resulted in the devastation of the rural economy of the Shenandoah Valley that today is known as the "burning".

Sincerely,

  
Edwin C. Bearss  
Chief Historian Emeritus  
National Park Service



WACHOVIA WEALTH MANAGEMENT

December 18, 2002

Peter W. Houck, M. D.  
Chairman, Capital Campaign  
Historic Sandusky Foundation  
757 Sandusky Drive  
Lynchburg, VA 24502

**Re: The Easley Foundation**

Dear Dr. Houck:

The Advisory Committee of the Easley Foundation has requested that I advise you of their decision regarding your grant request.

At its recent meeting, the Advisory Committee approved a grant of \$50,000 toward funding for Phase I of the Sandusky project. This is a challenge gift contingent on raising \$100,000 toward Phase I in cash pledges or in-kind contributions by November 30, 2003.

We wish you the best in this endeavor. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (804) 697-7347.

Very truly yours,



Karen N. Buchanan, Secretary  
Easley Foundation

KNB/nfb

Enclosure

**Cust Name/Address**

**Lynchburg, VA 24502**

LYNCHBURG VA 24505

DETACH AT THIS LINE AND RETURN THE **UPPER** PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO INSURE PROPER CREDIT

## The seal of the City of Lynchburg is a circular emblem. It features a stylized skyline of the city, including a prominent steeple, set against a background of wavy lines representing water. The words "THE CITY OF" are arched across the top, and "LYNCHBURG" is arched across the bottom.

**Lynchburg, VA 24502**

## Connection Fees

**(434) 847-1470**

### Civil War Tourism

- 25 million Americans visit Civil War sites annually
- Preserved battlefields raise property values
- Tourists who visit historical areas spend average of \$500 day



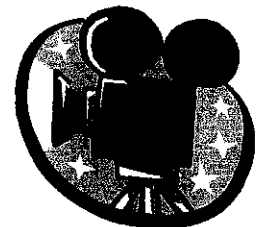
### Preserving history- why?

- Enriches the community
- Generates tax revenue via hotels, restaurants, etc.
- Raises the standard of living
- Supplements the school system
- Preserves history for future generations
- Generates interest in our city
- Makes economic and cultural sense



### Civil War museums recently opened

- Petersburg, Virginia
- Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- Richmond, Virginia
- Frederick, Maryland
- Columbus, Georgia

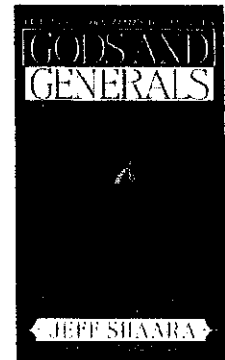
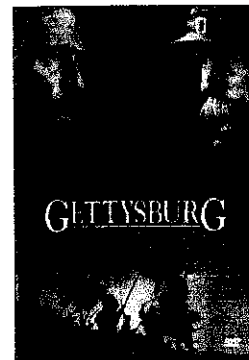


### Virginia Tourism

- Virginia has the most CW battlefields
- Civil War tourism in Virginia=\$1.8 million
- 1/4 of Virginia visitors stop at CW sites
- Tourism is Virginia's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest industry
- Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation

### Movie "Gettysburg"

- Released in 1993
- 15% rise in tourism at Gettysburg NPS



### Movie "Gods and Generals"

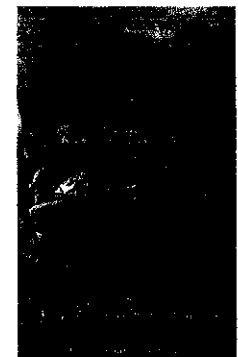
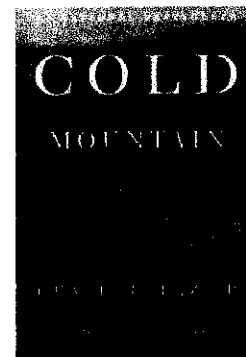
- Budget- \$60,000,000
- Filmed in Virginia
- Released February 2003

### Last Full Measure

- In Pre-production
- Portrays end of war and Appomattox

### Cold Mountain

- Portrays Petersburg battle & other Virginia locales
- Began filming June 2002
- Set to release December 2003
- Starring Nicole Kidman



### Projected Increase in Virginia's Tourism? How can our area benefit?

### Regional Synergy

- **D-Day Memorial** 20 miles to the West of Lynchburg
- 300,000 visitors in first year
- **Appomattox Court House NPS**
- 20 miles to East of Lynchburg
- 200,000 visitors annually